



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# 051-2013

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: February 11, 2013

SUBJECT: Dune Update – North Beach

RECEIVED
2013 FEB 19 PM 3:00
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The purpose of this LTC is to update the Mayor and City Commission on the recent dune restoration work that occurred between 71 Street and 73 Street.

The City's dune system provides a habitat for native species of plants and animals and acts as a vegetated buffer to protect upland property from storm surge. In the past, the dune system was not on a dedicated maintenance plan. As such, the vegetation in certain areas became overgrown, creating favorable conditions for homeless encampments and illicit activities. Funds have been allocated for FY 2012/13 to place the entire dune system on an on-going maintenance plan.

In January 2012, the City retained the landscape contractor Superior Landscaping and Lawn Service, Inc. to remove non-native vegetation and selectively prune native species from 72 Street to 75 Street to address public safety and maintenance concerns. However, during the rainy season, the vegetation in the area between 71 Street and 73 Street matured densely and was prioritized in September 2012 for additional maintenance.

Over the following months, the Public Works, Environmental and Sanitation Divisions, the Parks and Recreation, Greenspace Management Division, the Police Department, and the Homeless Outreach Team coordinated to develop a work plan for this area and to obtain the environmental permit necessary to work in the dune. In December 2012, following issuance of the permit, overtime staff from the Greenspace Management Division began the selective vegetation removal and trimming. The result of the coordinated interdepartmental efforts have greatly improved public safety while maintaining the structural integrity of the dunes and preserving its environmental benefits. Attached is the full restoration report that includes before and after photographs of the work area.

The City is in the process of preparing an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for a Citywide vegetation removal and replanting that will restore all of the City's dunes. This work is anticipated to begin in June, at the start of the upcoming rainy season. Once it has been completed, the City's dunes will be placed under a maintenance contract, in which the landscape contractor will maintain the entire system 30 times per year.

If you have any suggestions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachments: 71 Street to 73 Street Before and After Photographs

[Handwritten signatures]
JGG/FHB/JJF/RWS/ESW/MKW



BEFORE: Limited visibility caused by densely planted bay cedar (*Suriana maritima*) at the 73 Street beach entrance as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Trimmed bay cedar (*Suriana maritima*) allows for greater visibility from the western edge of the dunes at the 73 Street beach entrance.



BEFORE: Visual barrier created by densely planted vegetation between 73 Street and 72 Street as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Trimmed vegetation and removal of non-native vegetation allows for greater visibility from the western edge of the dunes between 73 Street and 72 Street.



BEFORE: Dense vegetation limits visibility north of the 72 Street beach entrance and partially covers the existing signage as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Trimmed and selectively removed vegetation allows for greater visibility from the dune crossover north of the 72 Street beach entrance and no longer restricts visibility of the existing signage.



BEFORE: Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*), a non-native species, has overgrown the dune area north of the 72 Street beach entrance as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Non-native species removal allows for greater visibility from the western edge of the dune and makes room for native species recruitment north of the 72 Street beach entrance.



BEFORE: Beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*) and other non-native species have overgrown the area north of the 72 Street beach entrance, limiting visibility into the dune and preventing the growth of native vegetation as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Non-native species removal allows for greater visibility from the western edge of the dune and makes room for native species recruitment north of the 72 Street beach entrance.



BEFORE: Beach naupaka (*S. taccada*) and other non-native species have overgrown the area north of the 72 Street beach entrance, limiting visibility into the dune and preventing the growth of native vegetation as observed during the meeting with the FDEP Field Representative on December 16, 2012.



AFTER: Non-native species removal allows for greater visibility from the western edge of the dune and makes room for native species recruitment north of the 72 Street beach entrance.